acquisition of land, the project authorities expect the project to be commissioned in 44 months.

Assets of SSPL and Bengal Immunity

898. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) whether productive assets of Messrs SSPL and Bengal Immunity are remaining unutilised for want of working capital, in spite of market demand for anti-malaria drugs, etc.; and

(b) if so, the time-bound steps taken by Government so far to maintain 'holding-on operation' till final decision at BIFR?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Pending the decision regarding the future of these companies by the Board for Industrial & Financial Reconstruction (BIFR), Government has been releasing non-plan funds from time to time to enable payment of wages and salaries to the employees/ workers of these companies.

Consumption of urea

899. SHRI DIPANKAR MUKHERJEE:
SHRI NILOTPAL BASU:

Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state:

(a) the rate of increase in consumption of urea in India and in West Bengal for the last three years;

(b) the actual consumption of urea in West Bengal for the last three years;

(c) the production capacity and actual production of urea in the State for the last three years; and

(d) the steps taken by Government to increase production of urea within the State *vis-a-vis* consumption?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF

CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) and (b) Consumption of urea and its percentage growth during the last three years in India and in West Bengal is given below:—

(In lakh Tonnes)

Year	In India		In West Bengal	
	Consumption of Urea	%age growth over previous year	Consumption of Urea	%age growth over previous year
1995-96	179.09	—	9.49	—
1996-97	190.25	6.23	9.62	1.37
1997-98	196.19	3.12	9.71	0.94
1998-99	203.96	3.96	10.21	5.15

(c) The installed capacity and actual production of urea during the last three years are given below:

(In lakh Tonnes)

Year	Annual Installed Capacity	Actual Production
1996-97	1.73	0.45
1997-98	1.73	0.03
1998-99	1.73	—

(d) Urea requirement in each State including the State of West Bengal is being met in full under the existing system of allocation under the Essential Commodities Act (ECA). There has been no reported shortage of urea in West Bengal.